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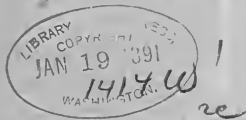
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



HOW TO CONSULT PATENT REPORTS.

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WILES, GREENE & BITNER,
PATENT LAW AND PATENT SOLICITING,
CHICAGO, ILL., WASHINGTON, D. C.,
226 LASALLE ST. SUN BUILDING.

WHEN AN INVENTOR HAS PAID US FOR EXAM-
INING THE PATENT OFFICE RECORDS, to
determine the patentability of his invention, AND WE
REPORT THAT WE CONSIDER IT PATENTABLE, we
prepare and prosecute his application for our usual
fees, and, IN CASE WE FAIL TO OBTAIN A PATENT,
WE RETURN THE WHOLE AMOUNT PAID, except the
fee for the search.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1890.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

*Wiles, Greene & Bitner, Attorneys and Solicitors of
Patents, of Chicago, Ill., and Washington, D. C., are well known
by me to be men of standing and character, both personally and
professionally.*

*Any business intrusted to their care will receive prompt
attention.*

C. B. FARWELL.

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PATENT OFFICE REPORTS

IN THE

PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHICAGO, ILL.

THE department of the public library, located at the north end of the fourth floor of the city hall, contains a complete set of the publications of the United States Patent Office, and nearly complete sets of the publications of the Patent Offices of England, France and Germany.

The publications of the United States Patent Office comprise:

First. The old Patent Office Reports, published and distributed gratuitously up to and including the year 1871. These reports are upon the shelves at the right of the east window of the room in which this department of the library is located, and they contain copies of the more important figures of the drawings, together with the claims, and in some instances a brief description, of all patents issued down to the end of the year 1871.

Second. A complete set to date of the Official Gazette, bound in volumes, down to the current numbers, which are placed in temporary binders. The Gazette is kept upon the shelves between the two windows, and just at the right of the librarian's desk. It contains the most important figure of the drawing, and the claims of each patent issued since 1871.

Third. A complete set of the monthly volumes of copies of patents, which are placed upon the shelves as fast as issued by the Patent Office. These volumes occupy the entire east end of the room, and extend around upon the north and south sides thereof. They contain full copies of the specifications and drawings of all patents issued by the United States. The numbers of the first and last patents contained in each volume are printed upon the back thereof. In looking up a patent these monthly volumes should always be consulted as it is only in them that a full copy of the drawings and specification can be found; and it frequently occurs that the figures of the drawing which are not shown in the Gazette have a very important bearing upon the points under examination.

Fourth. The annual indexes to the monthly volumes, and the Official Gazette. These indexes are at the right of the door through which the room is entered, and contain, first, a list of the names, arranged alphabetically, of all inventors who obtained patents during the year; second, a list of the titles, arranged alphabetically, of all patents issued during the year. At the right hand of each page of these indexes are six columns, ruled separately, and opposite the name of each inventor or the title of each invention, as the case may be, is placed in

the first column, the number of the patent; in the second column, the date of the patent; (which, of course, is the same as that of the monthly volume and of the Official Gazette in which it appears), in the third column, the page of the monthly volume on which the specification of the patent is printed; in the fourth column, the page of the monthly volume on which the drawing is printed; in the fifth column, the number of the volume of the Official Gazette in which the claims of the patent appear; and in the sixth column, the page of the Official Gazette on which they are printed.

TO FIND A PATENT.

Either the number, or the date together with the name of the inventor or the invention, should be first ascertained. If the date of the patent is later than 1871, the annual indexes will readily show the page and volume of the monthly reports or of the Official Gazette upon which it will be found. If the patent was issued before 1871, it may be found in the general index, consisting of two volumes which is on the same shelf with the annual indexes. Said index contains a list, arranged alphabetically, of all inventions for which patents were obtained prior to 1871. Opposite the title of invention is placed the name of the inventor and the number and date of the patent. Patents issued prior to 1871 are not found so easily as later patents, because the arrangement and classification in the old Patent Office reports are not uniform and not always calculated to aid one who is unaccustomed to their peculiarities. As far back as 1859, both drawings and claims were

arranged in regular order, according to the number of the patent. Hence, having once found the number, the drawing or the claims can be easily located. If the name of the inventor and the date of the patent are known, the number can be found either from the general index before mentioned or from the index printed in the first volume of each year of the reports. Prior to 1859, and as far back as 1854, the patents are arranged according to classes. In the last volume of each of these years is printed an index arranged according to their numbers of all patents issued during the year. This index is found at the commencement of volume 2 of 1854, and at the end of the last volume of each of the other years. If the number of the patent looked for is known this index should be consulted, and will show opposite said number the volume and page on which either the claims or the drawing may be found. At the commencement of the first volume of each year, from 1854 to 1858, an index arranged alphabetically of all the inventors who obtain patents during the year, is printed. If only the date and the name of the inventor are known, this index will tell the number of the patent. Prior to 1854 such information as is given in regard to patents is arranged in order, according to the numbers of the patents, similar to the arrangement after 1858.

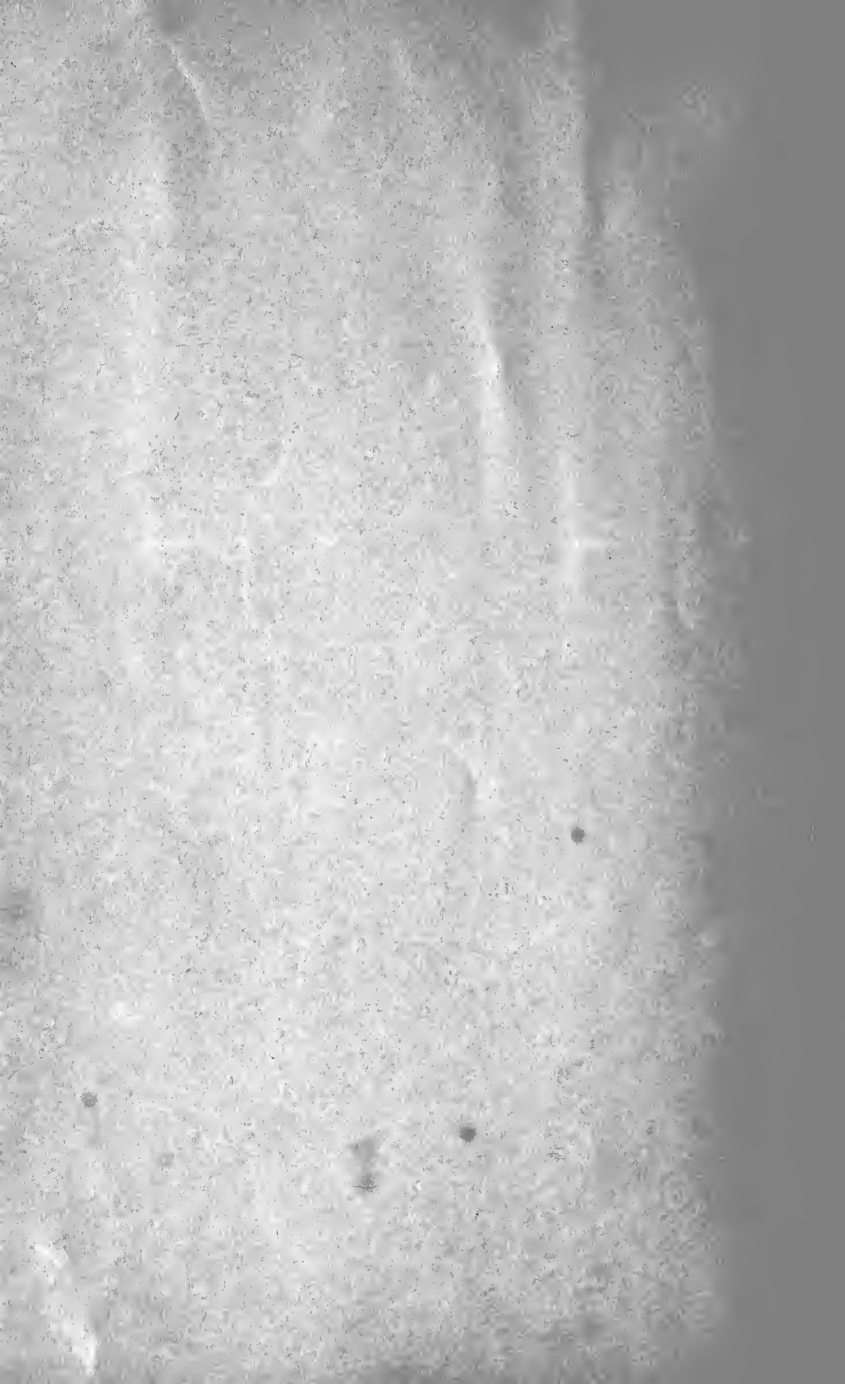
To make an Examination of all Patents Granted for a certain line of Inventions.

The general index should be first examined and a memorandum made of the number of each patent. The Patent Office

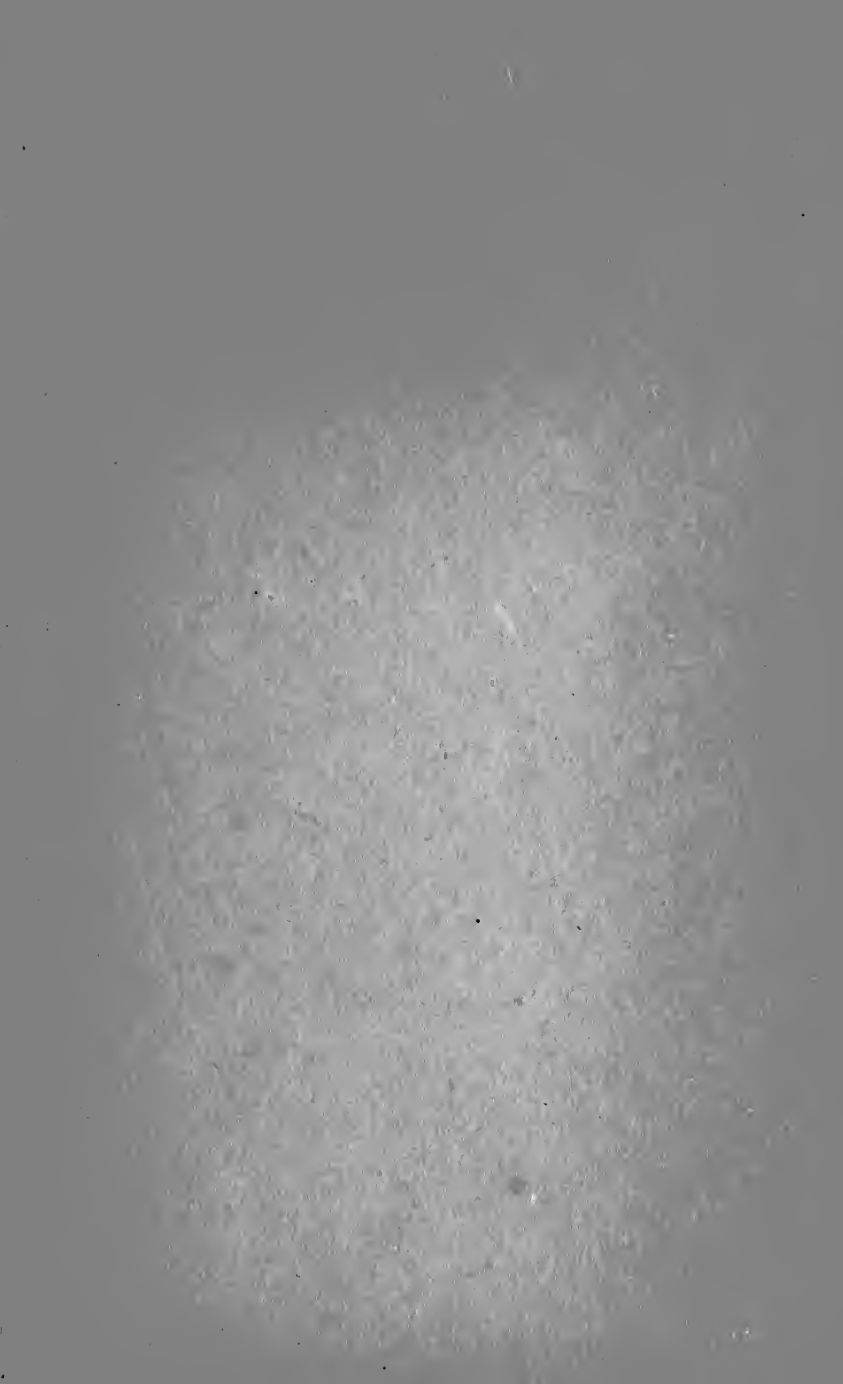
reports should then be taken up, and the drawings carefully examined. Next, the annual indexes should be consulted, and a memorandum made of the pages of the monthly volumes on which the specifications and drawings of each patent may be found. Said monthly volumes should then be carefully examined, reference being had to the description whenever the drawings do not clearly disclose the construction. Although a great many inventors make their own examinations to determine the advisability of applying for a patent, this is not a safe practice, and should not be done when the invention promises to be of considerable value. The question as to whether any invention can be distinguished so clearly from all prior inventions in the same line as to enable it to be protected by Letters Patent, is one that should be submitted only to a patent attorney. It frequently happens that an exceedingly important invention, and one which can be fully protected under the patent law, differs so little in its general appearance from the drawings of prior patents that the unpracticed eye is unable to detect any important distinction.

FOREIGN PATENTS.

When a foreign patent is to be examined, the Librarian should be consulted; as in the case of certain countries, such as Germany, for instance, the arrangement of the patents is exceedingly confusing. The Librarian will be glad to assist persons in such cases or in any other matters pertaining to his department in which they may need help.







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